

Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH)
Division of Epidemiology and Immunization

Vaccine Management Business Improvement Project (VMBIP)

New Centralized Vaccine Ordering and Storage Requirements

State-Supplied Vaccine Will No Longer Be Available From Local Distributors
after **June 2008**

Vaccine Ordering

With the implementation of VMBIP now tentatively rescheduled for June 2008, vaccine providers will submit orders for vaccine on a regular schedule, based on the amount of vaccine administered per year. Please see the table below for the projected delivery schedule based on the amount of vaccine administered annually in your practice.

No. of Doses Administered/Year	Delivery Schedule	Size of Order	Minimum Storage Capacity Needed
≥ 2,000	Once/month	1-month supply	2-month supply
500 - 1,999	Once every 2 months	2-month supply	3-month supply
100 - 499	Once every 3 months	3-month supply	4-month supply
< 100 doses	Once every 6 months	As needed	As needed

Vaccine delivery will take approximately 2 weeks, so providers should manage their vaccine inventory in order to have at least a 6-week supply on hand when an order is placed.

Vaccine Storage Capacity

In preparation for the transition to centralized vaccine distribution, it is critical to ensure that your refrigerator has the capacity to store the largest volume of vaccine you may need during the year, including sufficient vaccine to carry you between orders, plus a 1-month reserve. Use the following to determine if your current refrigeration capacity is sufficient for your anticipated storage needs based on the table above:

- Anticipate the addition of new vaccines and plan for newer packaging of vaccines (Menactra® will soon be packaged in syringes).

- Remember that adequate air circulation in the refrigeration unit is essential to maintain a uniform temperature throughout the unit. Take into account the following when determining your vaccine storage capacity:
 - Maintain at least one inch between the vaccine boxes and the ceiling and walls of the unit.
 - Use multiple shelves. Do not stack vaccine boxes more than 2 boxes high.
 - Never store vaccine in the door of the unit.

Assessing your vaccine storage capacity:

- Use your current stock to determine the amount of storage capacity needed for a 1-month supply of vaccine.
- From the table on the previous page, determine the number of months' supply you will need to accommodate.
- Use all the above information to determine whether or not your current storage capacity is sufficient to accommodate the amount of vaccine you will be required to store.

Example: A 1-month supply of vaccine currently fills half of your refrigerator space. Because your practice administers 1,500 doses of vaccine, you will need to be able to store a 3-month supply of vaccine. Your current vaccine storage capacity is not adequate and you will need to purchase another unit.

- ☐ **Current storage WILL accommodate larger vaccine order.**
- ☐ **Current storage WILL NOT accommodate larger vaccine order.**

If you need to purchase a new refrigerator:

If your current storage capacity is not adequate for your anticipated vaccine storage needs, you will have to procure another unit. When selecting a new refrigerator unit, keep in mind the following:

- Never use dormitory-style refrigerators with uninsulated freezers to store vaccines.
- Avoid household refrigerators that have bins and unnecessary features. Remove solid bins or shelves from the unit. Use wire shelves and bins for storing vaccine.
- Adjustable shelves maximize storage space and decrease the need to stack vaccines.
- Laboratory-style refrigerators maximize storage capacity and have an operating temperature that is better programmed for biological storage.
- Identify space in your facility for the new refrigeration unit.
- Make sure your electrical capacity (110v or 220v) is adequate for the new unit.

- Do this now, so that you are prepared for the transition on March 10th.

If you have any questions regarding VMBIP, ordering, or vaccine storage, please contact the Vaccine Management Unit at 617-983-6828.